

HONORING AUSTIN VAN BLACK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Austin Van Black. Austin is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Austin has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Austin has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned 121 merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Austin has led his troop as Senior Patrol Leader, attended the 2010 National Jamboree and 2011 World Jamboree in Sweden and earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe Mic-O-Say and became a member of the Order of the Arrow. Austin has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Austin completed 137 service hours for Hillcrest Transitional Housing, a homeless transition and education ministry, in Liberty, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Austin Van Black for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

MINGO COUNTY SHERIFF EUGENE CRUM A TRUE TITAN IN THE BATTLE FOR LAW AND ORDER

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, each April just a few blocks from the Nation's Capitol Building, we witness in full bloom 10,000 daffodils, amidst well manicured lawns, signaling the advent of the season of renewal and hope. This peaceful setting surrounds two blue-gray curved marble walls that help form our Nation's lasting tribute and memorial to law enforcement officers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

Every 57 hours in this Country, a law enforcement officer lays down their life, so that the rest of us can enjoy lives enriched by the very safety and security our officers provide.

Last week, West Virginians lost a true titan in the battle for law and order. Mingo County Sheriff Eugene Crum had just left his friend and compatriot, Judge Michael Thornsby, with the parting words, "I'm going to fight the good fight," so he could spend his lunch hour in his vehicle, keeping an eye on a former illegal pill mill. Moments later, the Sheriff would be slain. While the cause of the heinous murder remains under intense investigation its effect is well known.

Dave Rockel, Sheriff Crum's friend and teammate as the Commander of Mingo County's Drug Task Force said the murder has "awakened a sleeping giant." Commander Rockel pointed out "Operation Zero Tolerance" has taken on a new significance to continue the Sheriffs legacy of waging a success-

ful war against the scourge of prescription drug abuse. As Judge Thornsby calculated, the Sheriff had already achieved 57 felony convictions within 93 days of being sworn into office. Make no mistake, Eugene Crum may have been a new Sheriff, but he was a three-decade-old seasoned veteran of law enforcement, having served as a police lieutenant, chief of police, magistrate and chief magistrate.

Since the Sheriffs passing, many tributes have been offered by friends, officeholders and multiple newspaper editorials have been written to honor Sheriff Crum, his achievements, his compassion, his humility, his selflessness, and his fervent dedication and devotion to duty. And, what honor and comfort it must be to his widow, Rosie, his children, Julie and Bub, and his entire family to know that, as Judge Thornsby relayed, Eugene was often times able to personally enjoy one of the highest compliments anyone can be paid. For when many of those he had previously arrested would see Eugene on the street, they would stop to thank him for saving their lives. I ask my colleagues, here in the people's House, "What truer measure of a man is there?"

To such a man, this Nation remains deeply indebted and eternally grateful. On the National Memorial honoring the fallen, one of its four inscriptions reads, "In valor, there is hope." Eugene Crum's valor was as significant as that of the bravest soldier on the most tumultuous of battlefields. For Eugene, the field of battle was in the hills and hollows of home, on the front porches and through the backyards of neighbors, on the streets of Mingo County's downtowns and on their corners during the darkest hours of night. His battle endured without end until justice had ultimately prevailed. Indeed the legacy of Eugene Crum will live on each time justice is served and tempered with mercy to give new hope to those who have wronged their families and their communities. Eugene Crum's hope for a more civil world, born of his life of valor, is the badge of honor Sheriff Rosie Crum now wears, as do his comrades in law enforcement throughout our Nation.

As it was strongly and passionately relayed at his memorial this past weekend by Mingo County Commission President John Mark Hubbard, shame on anyone who will not make sure that the change Sheriff Crum laid his life down for does not continue.

Mr. Speaker, the obligation of the Congress to aid our law enforcement officers is clear. As American citizens, let us pray for their safe keeping, and that their resolve—this Nation's resolve—will be strengthened by the indelible mark left by Eugene Crum to serve and protect the people he loved.

EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support of the Equal Pay Day, April 9, 2013, which recognized the critical disparity between the working wages between men and women.

Women have come so far in our society and make up 50 percent of the workforce by con-

tributing their skills and experiences that drive our economy, making it the most dynamic in the world. But, women are not worth their work according to their wages and the services they provide. On average, we still earn 77 cents for every dollar earned by men. For a woman working full time, the current wage gap represents a loss of \$430,000 over the course of her career.

There are many women in my district who are the sole providers for their family. They act as the mother and the father rearing their family and struggling to put food on the table and a roof over their heads.

One of our top priorities should be closing the wage gap. By doing so, the middle class will be stronger and struggling Americans will have the support they need. I am a proud sponsor of the Equal Pay Day Resolution and urge my colleagues to become a cosponsor.

PASSING OF FAMILY PATRIARCH
ENRIQUE ROS**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, my dad was and will always be the wind beneath my wings. His passing leaves in us a loss that is eternal and deep. 'Abu Kiki' as we lovingly called him was the center, the foundation of us all, and the one person who kept us grounded and confident in the path our lives had taken. If there is one comfort we feel during this time of unequalled sorrow is that we are confident that my dad is once again reunited with his beloved and cherished soul mate, Amanda Ros.

Today I can look at my life and the lives of my brother Henry and my dad's adult grandchildren with joy and fulfillment. And I can do that because Abu Kiki worked hard to instill in us ageless ideals of fairness and doing always what was right.

My dad was a prolific writer and well-known historian. He was working on his 20th book, a biography of Antonio Maceo, when he died of respiratory complications at South Miami Hospital late Wednesday night. He authored 19 other books on Cuban history and local politics that are an important source of information for other historians, academics and scholars. All who shared my father's life knew that he was happiest when he was busy doing research and writing his books. His beloved library was a meeting ground for our family and he kept a detailed log of all the articles and pictures that told the story of my family's life and of his cherished books.

For 65 years, Enrique and Amanda Ros, shared a wonderful life together and they did it by way of love and hard work. They raised two children who have families of their own, founded and expanded a successful family business for over 30 years (Ros-Forwarding), and labored both as one in noble endeavors to re-establish democracy to our beloved Cuba. They were in love and it showed through their actions.

In the name of all of us in the Ros and Lehtinen families we would like to ask his friends and everyone else to not be despondent but rather to come together and celebrate his long and fulfilled life. That is what my dad